GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3315
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2000
ADULTERATION IN FERTILIZERS .
RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether fertilizers are being adulterated;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received in this regard and the action taken against the erring persons during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to check adulteration in fertilizers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a) to (c): No specific case of adulteration of fertilizer has been reported to the Government. However, some cases of non-standard fertilizer have been reported by the State Governments in their reports on quality control of fertilizer. During last three years i.e. 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 the percentage of samples found non-standard is about 6%. In order to ensure the availability of quality fertilisers to the farmers, the Government of India has promulgated the Fertiliser (Control) Order, 1985, under theEssential Commodities Act, 1955. This Order provides that only such fertilisers which meet the quality standards as laid down in the said Order are sold to the farmers. The State Governments are the enforcement agencies and are adequately empowered to take action against those who indulge in selling of non-standard fertilisers. There are 66 fertiliser control laboratories in the country to check the quality of fertilisers with the annual analysing capacity of 1.20 lakh samples. The Government of India advises andperiodically assists the State Governments to strengthen the fertilizer Quality Control laboratories in terms of equipment and enforcement machinery.